

Farm Prices

recent legislation, it would not require anything like this sum. It would probably be something under \$100,000,000 that is involved in that kind of thing.

Mr. SENN: That was last year. It will be more this year.

Mr. GARDINER: I am quite sure that anyone associated with government knows that when these difficulties arise, if they do arise, they are generally dealt with, but I doubt if we shall get into these difficulties.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What the minister has just intimated is what I have had in the back of my head in studying this matter. If these boards are forced into the whole field of agricultural production in a time of great depression, \$200,000,000 would be just a drop in the bucket. This serves to emphasize the immensity of the field into which we are now entering. I wonder if the public realizes just what the possibilities of this whole thing are. Yet I have no doubt that public opinion wants something like this. I personally do, if it is at all possible; yet I have never been able to think the thing through to a successful conclusion. I am afraid of the whole thing, and yet I want to see something done. I am approaching it as objectively as possible. You know, Mr. Chairman, I am appalled at the extent to which this country is committing itself. Last week we committed ourselves to public expenditures in peace-time activities over and above those which are the ordinary inheritance of parliament to the amount of a billion dollars. That was commitments having nothing to do with the war, though some of the expenditures will possibly arise out of post-war problems, such as the export credit system. I wonder if even the government is impressed by the magnitude of the commitments of this country at this time. I just want to sound this note of warning as to where we are going. Where is it all going to end? There cannot be any relief for the taxpayers with programmes of this kind.

Mr. GARDINER: I understand that section 10 has been carried, Mr. Chairman.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 11—Regulations.

Mr. GARDINER: I stated the other night that we would agree to an amendment to section 11. The section now reads:

The governor in council may make such regulations as may be necessary for the efficient enforcement and operation of this act and for carrying out the provisions thereof according to their true intent and meaning.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

It is proposed to amend that by adding thereto the words:

provided that no such regulations shall be effective until published in the *Canada Gazette*.

Mr. CRERAR: I move accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. KINLEY: Does the minister anticipate any embarrassment under this legislation by what may be termed the dumping of products into Canada? I ask this question not that I have particularly in mind any article, although butter and eggs and corn comes to one's mind. I had in mind rather the bill to establish floor prices for fisheries, which will come up for consideration immediately after this bill. There will be a certain amount of dumping of fish into Canada from countries with a lower standard of living. The Minister of Agriculture has had much experience in this type of, shall I say, managed legislation. Perhaps he would say something that would give us a lead with regard to the dumping of fish products.

Mr. GARDINER: I said on the second reading that that matter had been considered and that there probably would be some objection to the principle of the bill on the ground that it might have some effect upon our negotiations with other countries immediately following the war. But I pointed out that New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain—I am not sure about legislation, but in their practices, the United States also—have been doing that kind of thing, that is, having different price levels for products bought or sold outside the country as compared with those which are produced and sold inside. So that we are not breaking any new ground in that matter. I suggest that the discussions which have taken place this morning would indicate that the effect would be the opposite of that which is now suggested. We are saying to farmers under this bill that if we did not do anything the price would be down at a certain level and that we are prepared to pay a certain higher price level for their product, but we are not prepared to pay that for the products of New Zealand or any other country; we will pay that price for these products in Canada in order that they may be sold at a lower price to consumers in this country. Under those circumstances it would be very difficult for any foreign exporter to dump here. Supposing we say that the producer is going to be paid 20 cents a pound for cheese, and the consumer can afford to pay only 15 cents—somebody else has decided that some place, or that is the condition—that is what they pay